

**Agenda Item:** 2.g

**Meeting Date:** September 18, 2025

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** City Commission

**Through:** Jennifer K. Bramley, City Manager

**From:** Jennifer K. Bramley City Manager

**Date:** 2025-09-10

**Subject:** Clearwater Ferry Services Interlocal Agreement (ILA), an operational agreement between the City of Dunedin and PSTA for Ferry Services, beginning October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026, for an amount "Not to Exceed" (NTE) \$85,000.

**Presenter(s):** Jennifer K. Bramley, City Manager

**Staff Recommendation:** Commission approval of the Clearwater Ferry Services Interlocal Agreement (ILA), between the City of Dunedin and PSTA for Ferry Services, beginning October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026, for an amount "Not to Exceed" (NTE) \$85,000, conditioned on both PSTA and Clearwater Ferry executing the First Amendment to Agreement For Ferry Operations and Related Services (wherein Clearwater Ferry agrees to indemnify the City of Dunedin) prior to the start of ferry service; and further authorize the City Manager to execute and amend the ILA for the limited purpose of changing the start date and thereby reducing the annual contribution, should such an administrative revision become necessary.

**Strategic Themes:** Community Amenities

**Boards & Committees:** None

**Budget Impact:** Funding for the referenced Ferry Services defined under the Interlocal Agreement (ILA), between the City of Dunedin and the PSTA, is available in the General Fund, in Acct. #001-4501-572-058101-CR, under Project #452201.

**Past Action:** Commission approval of the Clearwater Ferry Services Program Agreement (Action Item #6), on 6/5/18; and subsequent three-year amendment renewals on 6/5/19 and 6/3/22, respectively.

**Next Action:** N / A

**Attachments:**

- [A. Clearwater Ferry Funding Agreement \(Dunedin\) - \[Rev'd 9-4-25\].pdf](#)
- [B. Exhibit A PSTA and Clearwater Ferry Agreement.pdf](#)

**Background:**

The Clearwater Ferry Services opened in March of 2015, providing water transportation services to employees, residents, and tourists along the intracoastal waters of Pinellas County. At the June 5, 2018 City Commission Work Session meeting, the Clearwater Ferry received approval to add the Dunedin Marina on a one-year trial basis, as an additional stop for their ferry services. The Clearwater Ferry began providing these expanded services on July 6, 2018, every Friday, Saturday and Sunday; arriving and departing from the Dunedin Marina to Clearwater Beach Marina, Downtown Clearwater, and back to Dunedin. Fifty-three percent (53%) of the ridership over the length of the trial program originated in Clearwater.

Upon a successful one-year trial period, Clearwater Ferry owner, Trisha Rodriguez, requested the City extend the term of the agreement for an additional three (3) year period. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, at their meeting on March 20, 2019, and the Marina Advisory Committee, at their meeting on April 15, 2019, voted unanimously in support of the Clearwater Ferry Services three (3) year extension. Both the CRAAC at their meeting on May 1, 2019, and the Causeway and Coastal Waterway Committee, at their May 14, 2019 meeting, also voted unanimously in favor of the Clearwater Ferry Services three (3) year extension.

The First Amendment was approved on June 5, 2019 for an additional three (3) year period beginning June 5, 2019 and ending June 4, 2022, under the same terms and conditions as the initial service agreement. A Second Amendment was approved on June 3, 2022 for an additional three (3) year period beginning June 5, 2022 and ending June 4, 2025, under the same terms and conditions as the initial service agreement.

Ferry Service was disrupted in September 2024 following damage to the Marina from Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Damages to the docks resulted in closure of the Marina to all users until late July 2025, when portions of the Marina reopened to slip users. In mid-July 2025, the Commission approved temporary repairs and restoration work for ferry docking, including installation of pilings to ensure structural integrity and safe Ferry operations via an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Clearwater. Clearwater's staff had the expertise, equipment, and personnel necessary to perform these specialized repairs and restoration services in a prompt manner, and completed work by late July 2025.

With expiration of the prior agreement, coupled with the damage

and subsequent closure of the Marina, a new Interlocal Agreement (ILA) is being presented in order to resume Ferry services. The referenced agreement between the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) and the City of Dunedin provides for a service term from 10/01/25 through 9/30/26, with a FY26 contribution amount NTE \$85,000.

As such, staff hereby recommends Commission approval of the Clearwater Ferry Services Interlocal Agreement (ILA), between the City of Dunedin and the PSTA for Ferry Services, beginning October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026, for a total amount "Not to Exceed" (NTE) \$85,000, as detailed herein, conditioned on both PSTA and Clearwater Ferry executing the First Amendment to Agreement For Ferry Operations and Related Services (wherein Clearwater Ferry agrees to indemnify the City of Dunedin) prior to the start of ferry service; and further authorize the City Manager to execute and amend the ILA for the limited purpose of changing the start date and thereby reducing the annual contribution, should such an administrative revision become necessary.